

*Serra Pepper*  
*PGT*

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# Glades County

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## Economic Development Council, Inc.

September 23, 2008

Executive Office  
SEP 29 2008

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Carole Wehle, Executive Director  
South Florida Water Management District  
3301 Gun Club Road, MSC 2122  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Subject: Letter of intent regarding Glades location for inland port

Dear Ms. Wehle:

On behalf of Glades County and the City of Moore Haven, we are inviting you to tour the inland port sites located in Glades County on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. Afterwards, the Glades County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers and City of Moore Haven Mayor and Council will host a reception for you at the newly restored Glades County Museum, The Westergaard House. During this reception, we will make a presentation that will highlight our vision for siting the inland port in Glades County which is in the center of the South Florida mega-region and has excellent connectivity to five of Florida's seaports as well as metropolitan areas on both the east and west coasts of S. Florida.

We are excited to collaborate with you and the many other stakeholders to make this a successful project for our State, region and local communities. For many reasons, our community strongly supports an inland port in Glades County. A few of these reasons include the following.

1. It represents a remarkable opportunity for the State and our region to position itself for post Panamax all water shipping routes by supplementing Florida seaports with the infrastructure needed to process the projected increase in international trade. We envision South Florida becoming a gateway to the Americas and would work with you to market our region as such.
2. An inland port located at one of our two sites in the center of the South Florida mega-region provides ideal connectivity between key metro areas, seaports, existing rail and trucking routes (US27, SR29 and CR74-a major trucking route to I75)
3. Two sites have been through the pre-clearance review process as part of the

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Enterprise FL Catalyst project. Furthermore, the Moore Haven site was formerly proposed for the location of the FPL Glades Power Park, and consequently, has undergone much of the due diligence necessary for permitting a project of this kind.

Moving the site westward and out of the future Everglades flow way into a more central location within the Heartland region, has the potential to provide economic diversification opportunities for the previously identified Catalyst sites in the south central rural area of critical economic concern, (SCRACEC – comprised of the communities of South Bay, Belle Glade, Pahokee and Immokalee as well as six counties--Glades, Hendry, Highlands, Okeechobee, Hardee and DeSoto). All of these collectively represent Florida's Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI).

We urge you to support a western inland port location within the context of the FHREDI region and trust that you will work to ensure that the Glades County sites are fairly evaluated and considered for this major economic development and diversification opportunity.

Sincerely,

Paul Beck  
Chairman,  
*Glades County  
Commission*

Bret Whidden  
Mayor,  
*City of Moore Haven*

Tommy Perry  
Chairman,  
*Glades County Economic Development Council*

cc: The Honorable Charlie Crist, Governor of Florida  
The Honorable Jeff Kottkamp, Lt. Governor  
The Honorable Bill McCollum, Attorney General  
The Honorable Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner of  
Agriculture and Consumer Services  
The Honorable Alex Sink, Chief Financial Officer  
Ms. Stephanie Kopelousos, FDOT Secretary  
Mr. Michael Sole, FDEP Secretary  
Mr. Dale Brill, OTTED Director  
Mr. John LaCapra, President, Florida Ports Council  
Dr. Jean Enright, Chair, Port of Palm Beach  
Mr. Eric Buermann, SFWMD Executive Director  
Ms. Shannon A. Estenoz, Vice Chair, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
Mr. Michael Collins, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
Mr. Paul C. Huck, Jr., South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
Ms. Melissa L. Meeker, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
Mr. Jerry Montgomery, South Florida Water Management District Governing Board  
Mr. Patrick J. Rooney, Jr., Esq., South Florida Water Management District Governing Board